Indians in Iraq

†1991. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians living in Iraq affected by American invasion in Iraq and the number, out of them, who have returned to India;

(b) the expenditure incurred to bring back Indians from Iraq and countries around; and

(c) whether India recognizes American Military Regime in Iraq in the absence of any Government there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Approximately 74 Indians resident in Iraq were directly affected by the recent hostilities in Iraq. Of these, 65 have already ruturned to India.

(b) One Indian national resident in Iraq was repatriated to India at the Government expenditure of Rs. 38,788/-.

(c) UN Security Council Resolution 1483 recognises the status of the occupying powers and provides a legal basis and international mandate for administering Iraq till the formation of an internationally recognized representative Government by the Iraqi people including a role for the UN Special Representative working with the coalition Authority. India has reaffirmed the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their political future and supports the involvement of the UNSG's representative during this interim period. In this context, the constitution of a Governing Council composed of different Iraqi groups and interests has been welcomed by India.

American statement regarding support to Jehadis

1992. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards statement by Richard Boucher, spokesman of the U.S. Department of States that any support to Jehadis in Kashmir is illegal; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.